

Please retain the Morse code requirement for Amateur radio HF operations. While not needed most of the time for emergency or distress situations, it has the potential to save lives at some time. The present 5 wpm code speed requirement is not difficult to meet. This is evidenced by many persons, some very old, many very young, and others with severe disabilities having all met the requirements in the past and present. It also shows a commitment to learning and advancement.

The worst scenario I can imagine is to have someone call for help using Morse code, and having many amateur operators receive the call and none understand the message or be able to respond. The call for help that falls upon deaf ears that could end in tragedy.

If the amateur service is to continue as an emergency service then the code requirement MUST remain and be required of ALL Amateurs. It is the simplest and most reliable method of communication via radio ever devised. And in addition, it can also be used by other methods of propagation. By light and audio. Such as by flashlight or horn when voice will not carry. Having a corps of people who are knowledgeable in this method of communication can be invaluable in an emergency.

I have been a licensed amateur for nearly 40 years. I presently live in Alaska and we have severe disruption of radio propagation here quite often due to being located in the auroral zone. Some of the time the only method of terrestrial communication that works is a simple digital code that is not based on audio frequency changes as are most modern digital methods, but on on/off keying of the carrier. That method is, of course, Morse Code.

Also, the Technician license class is an entry level class and no new changes or license class are needed except the reinstatement of code testing for that class also.